

Appl. No. 10/006,432
Amdt. Dated September 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 28, 2003

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (currently amended): In combination with a multi-part housing configured to accommodate electric components and electronic components, the multi-part housing having a first housing part and at least a second housing part, the first housing part having an opening formed therein and being connectable to the second housing part, the opening in the first housing part being a slot-shaped opening defining a longitudinal direction, a device for locking the first housing part and the second housing part to one another, the device comprising:

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a locking element being shaped for and disposed in the slot-shaped opening, said locking element being configured to be movable in the longitudinal direction between a locking position and an unlocking position;

said locking element, in the locking position, connecting the first housing part to the second housing part in at least one of a form-locking and a force-locking manner;

said locking element, in the unlocking position, releasing a connection between the first housing part and the second housing part; and

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a blocking element disposed in ~~connected to~~ said locking element, said blocking element blocking said locking element from being adjusted at least in the locking position.

2 (original): The device according to claim 1, wherein the multi-part housing is a telecommunications system housing, the first housing part is a shroud, and the second housing part is a bottom housing part.

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3 (previously presented): The device according to claim 1, wherein:

the slot-shaped opening has lateral borders extending substantially parallel to one another;

said locking element has given parts configured to be in contact with sections of the lateral borders; and

said blocking element operably disposes said given parts of said locking element into force-locking abutment against the sections of the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening.

4 (previously presented): The device according to claim 3, wherein:

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the first housing part has an outer wall; and

said locking element has an actuating surface adjacent to the outer wall of the first housing part and has a sliding and arresting body extending through the slot-shaped opening.

5 (currently amended): ~~The device according to claim 4,~~
wherein in combination with a multi-part housing configured to accommodate electric components and electronic components, the multi-part housing having a first housing part and at least a second housing part, the first housing part having an opening formed therein and an outer wall and being connectable to the second housing part, the opening in the first housing part being a slot-shaped opening defining a longitudinal direction, the slot-shaped opening having lateral borders extending substantially parallel to one another, a device for locking the first housing part and the second housing part to one another, the device comprising:

a locking element being shaped for and disposed in the slot-shaped opening, said locking element being configured to be movable between a locking position and an unlocking position, said locking element having given parts configured to be in contact with sections of the lateral borders;

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said locking element having an actuating surface adjacent the outer wall of the first housing part and having a sliding and arresting body extending through the slot-shaped opening,
said sliding and arresting body ~~is~~ being a hollow body having wall sections, parts of said wall sections ~~form~~ forming sliding elements extending parallel to and abutting against the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening in the first housing part;

said locking element, in the locking position, connecting the first housing part to the second housing part in at least one of a form-locking and a force-locking manner;

said locking element, in the unlocking position, releasing a connection between the first housing part and the second housing part; and

a blocking element connected to said locking element, said blocking element blocking said locking element from being adjusted at least in the locking position, said blocking element operably placing said given parts of said locking element into force-locking abutment against the sections of the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening.

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6 (previously presented): The device according to claim 5,
wherein:

said wall sections of said sliding and arresting body are
configured to be movable perpendicularly to the longitudinal
direction; and

said blocking element is disposed in said locking element
and, in the locking position, operably disposes said sliding
elements of said wall sections into force-locking abutment
against the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening.

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7 (previously presented): The device according to claim 6,
wherein:

said wall sections of said sliding and arresting body have
latching protrusions; and

said locking element is configured such that, when said
sliding and arresting body is disposed in the slot-shaped
opening, said wall sections and said protrusions are
resiliently disposed along the lateral borders of the slot-
shaped opening, said locking element is connected to the
first housing part in a form-locking manner and said sliding

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elements butt against the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening.

8 (original): The device according to claim 5, wherein:

the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening have notches formed therein; and

said sliding elements are sliding webs latching into said notches of the lateral borders, if said locking element is in given positions.

9 (original): The device according to claim 8, wherein:

said sliding webs are centrally disposed on said locking element; and

the notches are disposed at the lateral borders of the slot-shaped opening, such that, in the locking position and in the unlocking position of said locking element, said sliding webs are latched in the notches.

10 (original): The device according to claim 9, wherein:

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said blocking element is a rotary locking device with an
adjusting part and a rotary pin projecting perpendicularly
from said adjusting part;

said adjusting part is disposed integrated in said actuating
surface of said locking element; and

said rotary pin has lateral clamping webs configured to abut
against said wall sections of said sliding and arresting body
of said locking element if said adjusting part is rotated.

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11 (original): The device according to claim 10, wherein said
adjusting part is configured to be adjustable into a locking
position and an unlocking position only if said sliding webs
are latched into one of the notches of the lateral borders of
the slot-shaped opening of the first housing part.

12 (original): The device according to claim 4, wherein:

the first housing part has a wall section adjacent to the
slot-shaped opening, the wall section has a depression formed
therein; and

said actuating surface of said locking element is disposed in
the depression.

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13 (original): The device according to claim 10, wherein:

the actuating surface of said locking element has a depression formed therein configured to accommodate said adjusting part of said blocking element, and

said adjusting part is configured as a circular disk having one of an actuating slot and an actuating web formed centrally therein.

14 (original): The device according to claim 13, wherein said actuating surface of said locking element has a keyhole opening formed therein for accommodating said rotary pin and said lateral clamping webs of said blocking element.

15 (original): The device according to claim 14, wherein said keyhole opening is disposed diagonally in relation to said wall sections of said sliding and arresting body of said locking element.

16 (original): The device according to claim 15, wherein:

said adjusting part has an underside and a nose disposed on said underside, said nose is aligned with said lateral

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clamping webs projecting from opposite sides of said rotary
pin; and

said depression in said actuating surface has a groove formed
therein for accommodating said adjusting part, said groove is
configured as a part-circular groove and said nose engages in
said groove.

17 (original): The device according to claim 16, wherein said
keyhole opening has a given depth with respect to said
actuating surface, said lateral clamping webs of said
blocking element are spaced from said underside of said
adjusting part at least by an extent of the given depth of
said keyhole opening.

18 (original): The device according to claim 16, wherein said
locking element has a web disposed in said groove, said web
subdivides said groove into an insertion region and an
adjusting region for said blocking element, said insertion
region is substantially aligned with said keyhole opening and
is configured to accommodate said nose.

19 (original): The device according to claim 18, wherein said
web has an oblique surface directed toward said insertion
region and has a vertical surface directed toward said

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adjusting region, said web is configured such that once said blocking element is inserted into said locking element and said web is overcome, said blocking element is adjustable by an angular extent of said adjusting region between a locking position and an unlocking position.

20 (original): The device according to claim 19, wherein said locking element has rounded protrusions disposed in said adjusting region for setting the locking position and the unlocking position.

21 (original): The device according to claim 16, wherein:

said adjusting part has a further nose disposed diametrically opposite from said nose on said underside;

said depression in said actuating surface has a further groove formed therein, said further groove is configured as a continuous, part-circular groove for accommodating said further nose; and

said locking element has separating webs for separating said groove from said further groove.

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22 (original): The device according to claim 13, wherein said actuating surface of said locking element has finger hollows formed therein, said finger hollows are disposed adjacent to said depression accommodating said adjusting part of said blocking element.

23 (currently amended): A multi-part housing configuration, comprising:

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a first housing part and at least a second housing part, said first housing part having an opening formed therein and being connectable to said second housing part, said opening in said first housing part being a slot-shaped opening defining a longitudinal direction;

a locking element disposed in said slot-shaped opening, said locking element being configured to be movable in the longitudinal direction between a locking position and an unlocking position and being displaceable in the longitudinal direction between the locking position and the unlocking position;

said locking element, in the locking position, connecting said first housing part to said second housing part in at least one of a form-locking and a force-locking manner;

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said locking element, in the unlocking position, releasing a connection between the first housing part and the second housing part; and

b1
a blocking element ~~connected to~~ disposed in said locking element, said blocking element blocking said locking element from being adjusted at least in the locking position.
